

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MORE THAN 27 MILLION MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES ARE ENROLLED IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE

Medicare beneficiaries signing up at a rate of 380,000 per week

Medicare announced today that 1.9 million additional beneficiaries have signed up for prescription drug coverage since mid-February. This represents a 25 percent increase over last month in the number of people who have selected a plan and brings the total of those who have signed up individually over the past four months to approximately 7.2 million.

“We are very pleased that more and more people with Medicare are taking advantage of this important benefit. Strong and steady enrollment has continued this month, with 380,000 Medicare beneficiaries signing up each week,” HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt said. “Over 27 million beneficiaries are now getting coverage and saving money on their prescription drugs. We are well on the way to achieving our goal of 28 to 30 million enrollees in the first year.”

Nearly 7 million beneficiaries are currently enrolled in Medicare Advantage (MA) plans, which include both MA-only and MA-Prescription Drug. In the past five weeks, more than 330,000 people have signed up for MA plans, and enrollment in Medicare Advantage has increased by about 1 million since enrollment in the drug benefit began. Approximately 5.7 million beneficiaries in MA receive coverage through MA-PD plans.

“The accelerating enrollment is in large measure due to the extraordinary efforts of our national and local partners across the country, who are helping people with Medicare get their questions answered, enroll, and start saving,” said Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Administrator Mark B. McClellan, M.D., Ph.D. “We have increased our support for this intense outreach effort. We have added resources to keep the wait times down and beneficiary support up at 1-800-MEDICARE and medicare.gov. We urge all people with Medicare who do not yet have good drug coverage to get the help they need to make a confident decision about their prescription drug coverage prior to the May 15 enrollment deadline.”

In order to ensure that people with Medicare get their prescriptions filled quickly for the first time after they have enrolled, CMS encourages Medicare beneficiaries to sign up for drug coverage early in the month before they want coverage, or at least 2 to 3 weeks before they plan to use their coverage.

Overall prescription drug coverage figures as of March 18 are:

- **Stand-Alone Prescription Drug Plans:** More than 6 million people with Medicare have enrolled in stand-alone prescription drug plans.
- **Medicare Advantage with Prescription Drugs:** About 5.7 million received coverage through Medicare Advantage plans with drug coverage (MA-PDs). More than 800,000 of these beneficiaries signed up on their own in the last four months.
- **Medicare/Medicaid:** About 5.8 million were automatically enrolled in prescription drug plans, plus about 600,000 enrolled in Medicare Advantage plans with prescription drug coverage.
- **Retiree Coverage:** More than 6.2 million retirees are enrolled in the Medicare retiree subsidy. In addition, about 1.4 million retirees are in employer and union-sponsored coverage that incorporates or supplements Medicare group drug coverage.
- **Federal retiree coverage:** 3.5 million
 - **TRICARE:** There are 1.9 million beneficiaries with TRICARE retiree coverage.
 - **FEHB:** There are 1.6 million beneficiaries with FEHB retiree coverage. This figure now accounts for spouses with Medicare who are covered under a FEHB family policy by retirees who also have Medicare coverage.

For enrollment data by county, visit

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PrescriptionDrugCovGenIn/Downloads/cedata032006.zip>. To enroll, visit www.medicare.gov.

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Note: All HHS press releases, fact sheets and other press materials are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/news>.

State Enrollment in Medicare Prescription Drug Plans Nov. 15, 2005 - Mar. 18, 2006

As of 3/18/2006

State	Stand-Alone Prescription Drug Plan	Medicare Advantage with Prescription Drugs*	Medicare- Medicaid (Automatically Enrolled)	Medicare Retiree Drug Subsidy	Estimated Federal Retirees (Tricare, FEHBP)	Total with Drug Coverage
Alabama	137,092	79,510	86,070	105,749	96,396	504,817
Alaska	4,429	109	11,552	9,827	8,762	34,679
Arizona	77,509	250,110	56,840	99,472	87,699	571,630
Arkansas	113,419	8,701	63,347	49,332	47,096	281,895
California	307,604	1,293,638	897,090	393,648	341,510	3,233,490
Colorado	59,181	134,772	42,927	70,347	70,923	378,150
Connecticut	80,316	31,668	67,891	104,379	22,077	306,331
Delaware	34,907	587	9,849	30,043	12,125	87,511
District Of Columbia	5,259	4,810	15,587	2,956	23,179	51,791
Florida	383,273	621,802	346,896	419,291	305,160	2,076,422
Georgia	245,798	40,568	141,303	108,036	122,490	658,195
Hawaii	5,182	47,404	23,832	31,722	35,155	143,295
Idaho	36,349	14,362	18,487	18,359	20,403	107,960
Illinois	371,425	74,831	255,442	313,613	73,188	1,088,499
Indiana	191,664	12,779	97,858	179,894	45,259	527,454
Iowa	142,905	16,780	56,140	39,040	26,219	281,084
Kansas	89,820	15,976	39,942	27,126	37,242	210,106
Kentucky	144,782	30,751	82,728	120,877	45,629	424,767
Louisiana	72,895	69,798	100,822	87,744	45,897	377,156
Maine	55,763	866	46,321	32,551	22,457	157,958
Maryland	127,080	30,589	58,234	117,950	132,136	465,989
Massachusetts	118,075	142,731	186,274	175,623	56,640	679,343
Michigan	244,197	44,862	194,862	439,782	49,143	972,846
Minnesota	158,074	114,026	61,930	71,358	36,234	441,622
Mississippi	84,143	6,406	130,128	28,127	45,199	294,003
Missouri	157,088	116,229	146,841	110,819	72,479	603,456
Montana	31,323	3,015	15,058	12,361	15,506	77,263
Nebraska	74,315	11,819	32,033	21,215	21,552	160,934
Nevada	29,908	85,224	17,931	37,195	36,229	206,487
New Hampshire	31,491	1,496	19,548	31,339	18,217	102,091
New Jersey	234,626	68,172	140,266	256,367	65,486	764,917
New Mexico	31,851	47,146	33,032	35,213	36,854	184,096
New York	185,850	430,626	516,849	470,580	100,065	1,703,970
North Carolina	251,681	95,516	220,525	202,720	114,646	885,088
North Dakota	33,888	1,105	10,733	4,730	7,605	58,061
Ohio	211,961	227,293	179,042	493,570	88,138	1,200,004
Oklahoma	118,565	42,570	74,933	45,394	70,445	351,907
Oregon	90,095	122,071	35,082	41,012	47,174	335,434
Pennsylvania	221,178	498,227	156,977	274,615	124,021	1,275,018
Rhode Island	15,475	52,291	26,557	11,729	13,948	120,000
South Carolina	111,488	23,049	115,618	106,530	79,490	436,175
South Dakota	38,202	1,508	11,864	5,967	12,186	69,727
Tennessee	141,130	96,633	217,726	105,662	74,635	635,786
Texas	458,538	243,221	307,765	403,920	283,273	1,696,717
Utah	47,295	17,927	21,109	26,476	37,130	149,937
Vermont	22,841	117	16,383	15,056	6,513	60,910
Virginia	195,376	32,465	105,323	107,356	196,905	637,425
Washington	115,213	78,411	97,765	94,511	107,614	493,514
West Virginia	70,653	10,325	42,179	81,860	21,140	226,157
Wisconsin	106,308	56,217	110,705	129,650	35,874	438,754
Wyoming	17,731	720	5,616	6,717	7,614	38,398
Puerto Rico	20,836	217,090	1,334	8,952	12,019	260,231
Virgin Islands	1,730	52	17	3,009	244	5,052
Other^	2,637	2,228	1,008	0	30,253	36,126
Total	6,360,414	5,671,199	5,772,171	6,221,371	3,545,473	27,570,628

* Medicare Advantage includes about 594,000 Medicare-Medicaid beneficiaries.

^Other includes other territories and beneficiaries whose address information is being updated.